

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04

RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 L-03

RSR-01 /140 W

----- 044680

R 111439 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9102

INFO EC BRUSSELS 349

USMISSION GENEVA

OECD PARIS 3383

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E. O. 11652

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: POSSIBLE DECLARATION ON REVERSE PREFERENCES

REF: STATE 66701

1. SEVERAL TIME DURING PAST YEAR EMBASSY HAS REPORTED NIGERIAN EXPRESSIONS OF DISAPPOINTMENT OVER WHAT THEY REGARD AS A U. S. FAILURE TO SPEAK UP FORTHRIGHTLY IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AGAINST REVERSE PREFERENCES. NIGERIAN SENSITIVITY ON THIS POINT NOW UNDOUBTEDLY MORE ACUTE IN VIEW OF CAMPAIGN FMG HAS LAUNCEHED TO TURN AFRICAN OPINION AND PARTICULARLY AFRICAN " ASSOCIABLES" AGAINST " YAOUNDE"- TYPE RELATIONSHIP WITH EC. NIGERIANS WILL QUITE CERTAINLY BE WATCHING CLOSELY OUR REACTION TO THEIR REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF THEIR ANTI- REVERSE PREFERENCE RESOLUTION.

2. WE BELIEVE WE APPRECIATE MAJOR FACETS OF TACTICAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING U. S. IN GENEVA. THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR HOPING A VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS CAN BE AVOIDED.

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BUT THERE ARE ALSO SIGNIFICANT RISKS IN APPEARING TO PURSUE TACTICS DESIGNED TO AVOID VOTE ON SUBSTANCE OF RESOLUTION. SINCE NIGERIANS HAVE NEVER BEEN GIVEN ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE ANY SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES WITH US ON REVERSE PREFERENCE ISSUE THEY WOULD CERTAINLY REACT BADLY TO ANYTHING THAT THEY MIGHT VIEW AS A U. S. ATTEMPT TO UPSET THEIR INITIATIVE TALKS. CHUNG ADDED THAT HE WOULD SEE MASMOUDI AGAIN AND ALSO BOURGUIBA FOR PURPOSE URGING GOT DELAY.

4. AMBASSADOR CHUNG ALSO VISITED TRIPOLI IN EARLY MARCH 1973 TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY ESTABLISHING MORE FORMAL RELATIONS WITH LARG. HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE UNABLE GET APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN KIKHYA, AND FOR PRESENT WAS HOPING OPEN ONLY CONSULATE OR TRADE MISSION. (COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR CHUNG SINCE TRIPOLI ' S ESTABLISHMENT RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA.)

5. COMMENT: WE KNOW FROM PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS THAT FONMIN MASMOUDI WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY HIS VISIT TO SEOUL LAST YEAR, BUT WE NEVERTHELESS EXPECT THAT HE WOULD LIKE ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AS WELL. FINAL DECISION ON MATTERS LIKE THIS IS UP TO BOURGUIBA, OF COURSE. SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR CHUNG IS ACTIVE AND WELL ESTABLISHED HERE; SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY HAS NOT ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER, AND WE BELIEVE FOR MOMENT IT BEST LEAVE FURTHER INITIATIVES TO SOUTH KOREANS THEMSELVES.
SEELYE

CONFIDENTIAL

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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